

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The claims are as follows and have not been amended in this response:

1. (Original) A method for bonding a first component to a second component, the method comprising:
 - (a) providing a preform of woven fabric having a selected thickness;
 - (b) infusing the preform with an adhesive;
 - (c) adhering at least one surface of the preform to at least one surface of the first component using the adhesive within the preform;
 - (d) curing the adhesive; and
 - (e) attaching the second component to the preform.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the adhesive has a tensile strength less than 6500 pounds per square inch.
3. (Previously Presented) A method for bonding a first component to a second component, the method comprising:
 - (a) providing a preform of woven fabric having a selected thickness;
 - (b) infusing the preform with an adhesive;
 - (c) adhering at least one surface of the preform to at least one surface of the first component using the adhesive within the preform;

(d) curing the adhesive;

(e) attaching the second component to the preform; and wherein:

the adhesive has a peel strength greater than 15 pounds per linear inch.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

step (e) comprises adhering the second component to the preform using the adhesive within the preform prior to curing the adhesive.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:

step (e) comprises orienting the second component to be perpendicular to the first component after attachment.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:

step (e) comprises orienting the second component to be parallel to the first component after attachment.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

step (e) comprises fastening the other of the components to the preform using fasteners.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the preform contains no resin.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the preform has a base and two legs extending from a surface of the base.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the preform has a thickness of at least two textile layers.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

step (d) further comprises enclosing the preform and portions of the components in contact with the preform within a collapsible container and drawing air from within the container, air pressure outside of the container collapsing the container and applying forces to the preform and portions of the components during curing.

12. (Original) A method for bonding two components orthogonally relative to each other, the method comprising:

(a) providing a resin-free woven preform with a base and a pair of legs extending from the base generally parallel to each other;

(b) infusing the woven preform with an adhesive;

(c) adhering opposing surfaces of one of the components to the inner surfaces of the legs of the preform;

(d) adhering a surface of the base of the preform to a surface of the other of the components and positioning the components orthogonal relative to each other; then

(e) curing the adhesive.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein:

the adhesive has a tensile strength less than 6500 pounds per square inch.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for bonding two components orthogonally relative to each other, the method comprising:

(a) providing a resin-free woven preform with a base and a pair of legs extending from the base generally parallel to each other;

(b) infusing the woven preform with an adhesive;

(c) adhering opposing surfaces of one of the components to the inner surfaces of the legs of the preform;

(d) adhering a surface of the base of the preform to a surface of the other of the components and positioning the components orthogonal relative to each other; then

(e) curing the adhesive; and wherein:

the adhesive has a peel strength greater than 15 pounds per linear inch.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein:

step (e) further comprises enclosing the preform and portions of the components in contact with the preform within a collapsible container and drawing air from within the container, air pressure outside of the container collapsing the container and applying forces to the preform and portions of the components during curing.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein:

step (e) further comprises distributing inward forces across outer surfaces of the preform.

17. (Original) A method for assembling two components, one of the components being planar, the method comprising:

(a) providing a resin-free, woven, T-shaped preform with a single leg extending from a base;

(b) infusing the preform with an adhesive, the adhesive having a tensile strength of less than 6500 pounds per square inch;

(c) adhering a lower surface of the preform to a surface of the planar component;

(d) supporting the leg of the preform in an upright orientation; then

(e) curing the adhesive; and

(f) securing the other of the components to the leg of the preform with a fastener.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein:

step (d) further comprises using tooling to support the leg of the preform.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein:

step (e) further comprises using tooling to distribute inward force across outer surfaces of the preform.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for assembling two components, one of the components being planar, the method comprising:

(a) providing a resin-free, woven, T-shaped preform with a single leg extending from a base;

(b) infusing the preform with an adhesive, the adhesive having a tensile strength of less than 6500 pounds per square inch;

(c) adhering a lower surface of the preform to a surface of the planar component;

(d) supporting the leg of the preform in an upright orientation; then

(e) curing the adhesive;

(f) securing the other of the components to the leg of the preform with a fastener; and wherein:

the adhesive has a peel strength greater than 15 pounds per linear inch.

21. (Previously Presented) A method for bonding a first component to a second component, the method comprising:

(a) providing a preform of woven fabric;

(b) infusing the preform with an adhesive that has a tensile strength less than 6500 pounds per square inch and a peel strength greater than 15 pounds per linear inch, the preform after infusion with the adhesive being free of any resin; then

(c) placing the preform in contact with the first component;

(d) curing the adhesive, causing the adhesive to bond the preform to the first component; and

(e) attaching the second component to the preform.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein step (e) is performed before step (d) by placing the second component in contact with the preform before curing the adhesive, then curing the adhesive to bond the first and second components to the preform simultaneously.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein step (e) is performed after step (d).